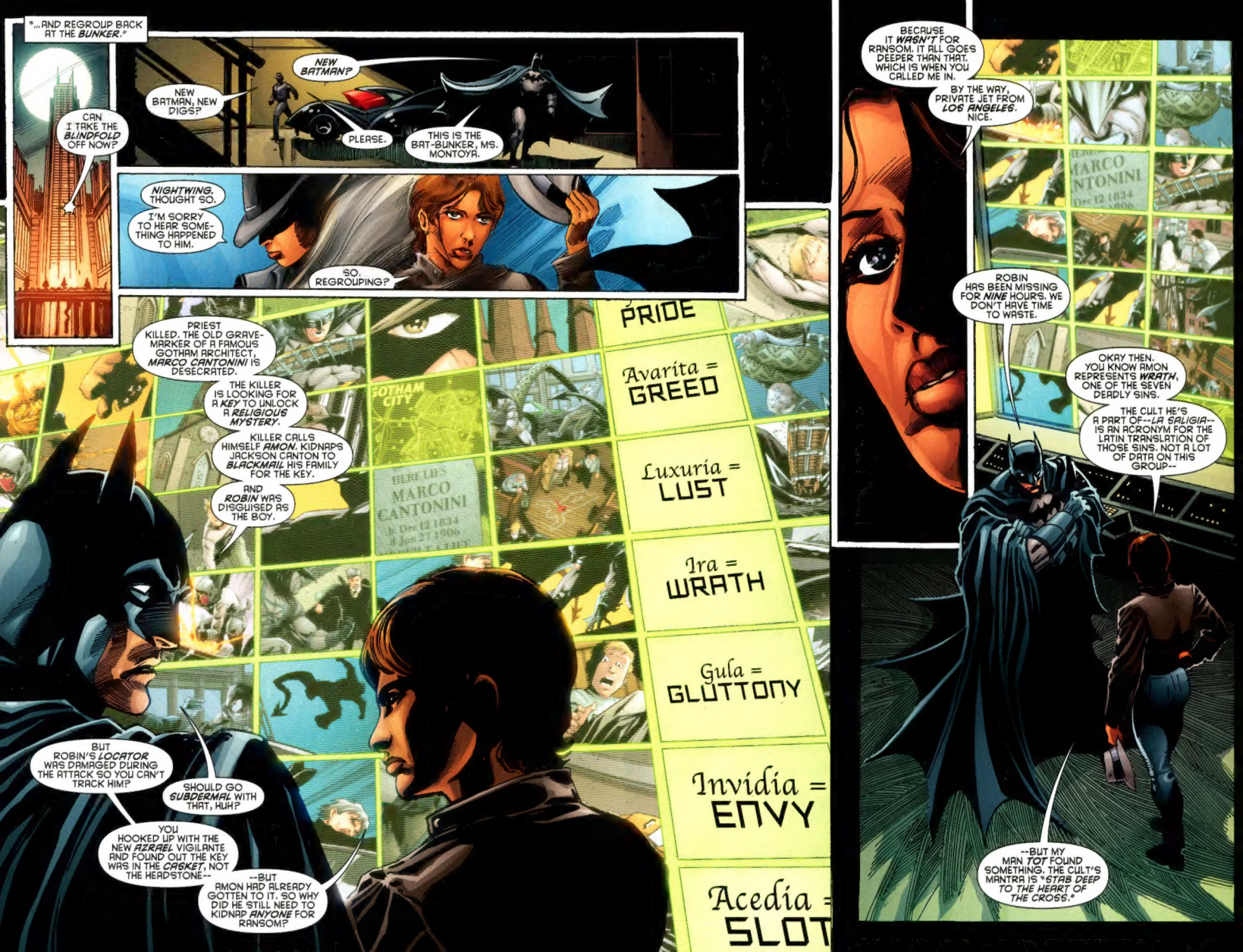
DC
BATMAN
DETECTIVE
COMICS
ANNUAL
11
2009
GUEST-STARRING
AZRAEL
AND
The QUESTION!
FABIAN
NICIEZA
TOM
MANDRAKE
DIRECT SALES
01111
7 61941 20020 0
$4.99 US
DCCOMICS.COM

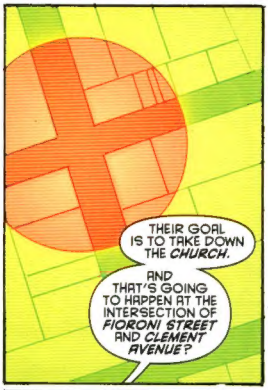
THE ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD IS COMPROMISED.
SOME BACKUP WOULD BE NICE.
I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN HOW MUCH I *HATE* THIS CITY.

TYPICAL GOTHAM "HOW YA DOIN'?"
The Eighth Deadly Sin
PART TWO
Original Sin
WRITER FABIAN NICIEZA
ARTIST TOM MANDRAKE
COLORS NATHAN EYRING
LETTERING JOHN J. HILL
ASST EDITOR JANELLE SIEGEL
EDITOR MIKE MARTS
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

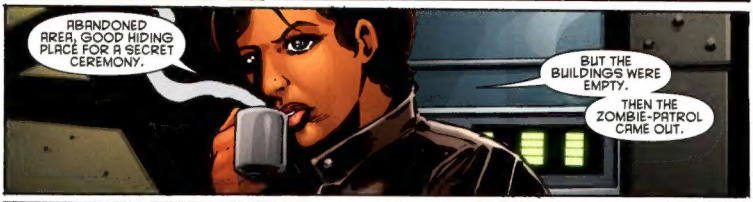
-AH-
CONSUME.
CONSUME.
PFFFSSS PFFFSSS
...MY HAT TAKES MORE ABUSE...
WOULD FIVE SECONDS EARLIER HAVE KILLED YOU?
THE QUESTION ASKING QUESTIONS. CUTE.

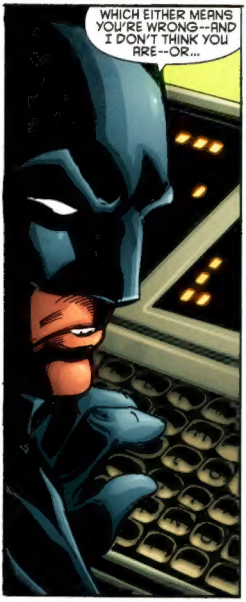
DON'T KNOCK THE TIMING.
FIVE SECONDS *LATER* MIGHT HAVE KILLED YOU.
NICE TO SEE YOU TOO, BATMAN.
SO WHAT'S THEIR STORY?
LOCALS. FOUR-BLOCK RADIUS. SOME KIND OF *MIND CONTROL*.
BUT THEY'RE NOT HURTING EACH OTHER--MORE LIKE... *GUARDING* THE AREA.
SO LET'S NOT RISK HURTING THEM OR OURSELVES...


"...AND REGROUP BACK AT THE BUNKER."
CAN I TAKE THE BLINDFOLD OFF NOW?
NEW BATMAN, NEW DIGS?
NEW BATMAN?
PLEASE.
THIS IS THE BAT-BUNKER, MS. MONTOYA.
NIGHTWING. THOUGHT SO.
I'M SORRY TO HEAR SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM.
SO, REGROUPING?
PRIDE
Avarita = GREED
Luxuria = LUST
Ira = WRATH
Gula = GLUTTONY
Invidia = ENVY
Acedia = SLOTH
PRIEST KILLED. THE OLD GRAVE-MARKER OF A FAMOUS GOTHAM ARCHITECT, MARCO CANTONINI IS DESECRATED.
THE KILLER IS LOOKING FOR A KEY TO UNLOCK A RELIGIOUS MYSTERY.
KILLER CALLS HIMSELF AMON. KIDNAPS JACKSON CANTON TO BLACKMAIL HIS FAMILY FOR THE KEY.
AND ROBIN WAS DISGUISED AS THE BOY.
GOTHAM CITY
HERE LIES MARCO CANTONINI
BUT ROBIN'S LOCATOR WAS DAMAGED DURING THE ATTACK SO YOU CAN'T TRACK HIM?
SHOULD GO SUBDERMAL WITH THAT, HUH?
YOU HOOKED UP WITH THE NEW AZRAEL VIGILANTE AND FOUND OUT THE KEY WAS IN THE CASKET, NOT THE HEADSTONE--
--BUT AMON HAD ALREADY GOTTEN TO IT. SO WHY DID HE STILL NEED TO KIDNAP ANYONE FOR RANSOM?
BECAUSE IT WASN'T FOR RANSOM. IT ALL GOES DEEPER THAN THAT. WHICH IS WHEN YOU CALLED ME IN.
BY THE WAY, PRIVATE JET FROM LOS ANGELES. NICE.
ROBIN HAS BEEN MISSING FOR NINE HOURS. WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE.
OKAY THEN. YOU KNOW AMON REPRESENTS WRATH, ONE OF THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS.
THE CULT HE'S A PART OF--LA SALIGIA--IS AN ACRONYM FOR THE LATIN TRANSLATION OF THOSE SINS. NOT A LOT OF DATA ON THIS GROUP--
--BUT MY MAN TOT FOUND SOMETHING. THE CULT'S MANTRA IS "STAB DEEP TO THE HEART OF THE CROSS."


THEIR GOAL IS TO TAKE DOWN THE *CHURCH*.
AND THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN AT THE INTERSECTION OF *FIORONI STREET* AND *CLEMENT AVENUE*?

FIORONI WAS APPOINTED GOTHAM'S FIRST *CARDINAL* IN 1892, AND CLEMENT AVENUE WAS NAMED AFTER--
POPE CLEMENT X, WHO SANCTIONED GOTHAM'S FIRST CHURCH IN 1672. WHICH MAKES THIS INTERSECTION "THE HEART OF THE CROSS."


ABANDONED AREA, GOOD HIDING PLACE FOR A SECRET CEREMONY.
BUT THE BUILDINGS WERE EMPTY.
THEN THE ZOMBIE-PATROL CAME OUT.


WHICH EITHER MEANS YOU'RE WRONG--AND I DON'T THINK YOU ARE--OR...

IF THEY'RE NOT *ABOVE* GROUND, THE ONLY OTHER OPTION IS...

"... BELOW."
SKKKSHSHSH
NO-- PLEASE--
--PLEASE--
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
FOR THE EIGHTH DEADLY SIN TO ARISE, THE LINEAGE THAT DENIED HIM FOR SO LONG MUST SERVE SACRIFICE.
YOUR SEVEN FAMILIES, EACH REPRESENTING ONE OF MANKIND'S GLORIOUS SINS, HELD THE KEYS TO HIS RESURRECTION.
SO MUST YOU BE UNLOCKED TO OPEN THE PATH TO HIS RESURRECTION.
AND BY "UNLOCKED" YOU MEAN BLED?

YOU SERVE TO *SACRIFICE*.
THEN START WITH *ME*.
THERE IS AN *ORDER*. WE MUST BLEED OUT ONE SIN PER DAY UNTIL THE EIGHTH CAN BE AWAKENED ON THE EIGHTH DAY.
ENJOY THE DAYS LEFT AMONG THE LIVING, CHILD...
...*PRIDE* IS THE *LAST* TO SURRENDER OF ITSELF.
*SLOTH* IS THE FIRST SIN AND THE *MISANTHROPE* IS THE FIRST TO BE HONORED.
*NO-- PLEASE-- DON'T!*

ENOUGH!
CHILD IS UNRULY. PROTEST IS FUTILE.
OTHERS ABOVE, FEW BELOW...
WHICH IS WHY I ACT *NOW*, OAF!
UNRULY CHILD.
I BELIEVE THAT FACT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.
INDEED...
... AS WILL THE FUTILITY OF THIS RESISTANCE.
HUNH.

A BULL RUSH IN ENCLOSED SPACE?
TACTICAL GENIUS.
YOU ARE INSUBSTANTIAL?
I AM DAYSTAR.
I AM BEDROCK, BUT EPHEMERA. I AM FOUNDATION, YET SKY. EVIL AS GOOD.
AND THE TENDRILS OF MY ROBE...
...ARE LINED WITH DRUG-LACED RAZORS.
BUT I SEE I AM NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH A SURPRISING WARDROBE...
HE IS AN IMPOSTOR, THEN?
WHO ARE YOU, BOY?
YOUR UNDOING.

SO IF ONE OF THE CHILDREN THEY'VE KIDNAPPED ISN'T AN HEIR OF THE ORIGINAL KEY-KEEPERS--

--THEN THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO UNLOCK THE TOMB OF THE EIGHTH SINNER.
UPON HIS DEATH, THE EIGHTH SINNER'S TOMB WAS SEALED AND SEVEN KEYS WERE HIDDEN.
SO THEY NEEDED THE KEYS FROM EACH FAMILY--BUT THE KIDS...

...THEY ACTUALLY THINK THE BLOOD OF THESE CHILDREN WILL *RESURRECT* A BODY THAT'S BEEN DEAD FOR *CENTURIES*?

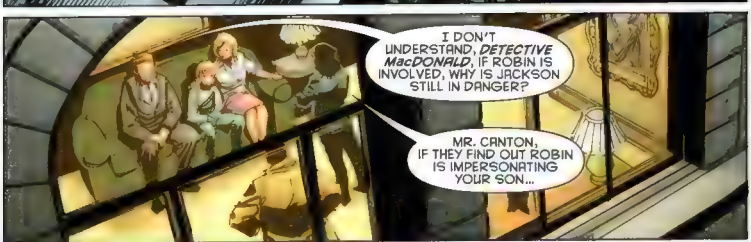
HOW MUCH CRAZIER IS THAT, *LANE*, THAN WEARING A HAUNTED *SUIT OF ARMOR*--
--AND RUNNING AROUND GOTHAM AS *AZRAEL*, GOD'S SWORD OF JUSTICE?

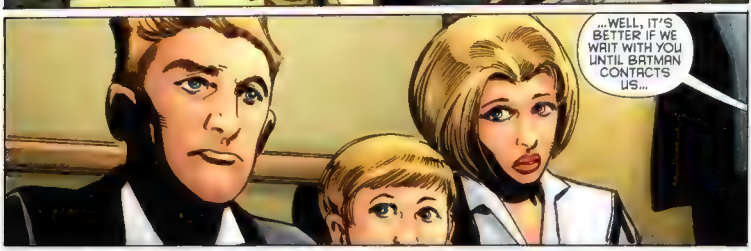
IT'S ALL ABOUT *FAITH*, RIGHT...?

TOT FOUND SOME MORE INFO.

SIX OTHER CHILDREN HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES.
CONFIRMING THIS *LA SALIGIA* CULT IS TRYING TO REENACT THE PROPHECY AZRAEL'S PEOPLE UNCOVERED. WHICH MEANS...

"...IT'S A GOOD THING WE CONVINCED THE GCPD TO MAINTAIN A WATCH ON THE *CANTONS*."


I DON'T UNDERSTAND, ***DETECTIVE MacDONALD***, IF ROBIN IS INVOLVED, WHY IS JACKSON STILL IN DANGER?
MR. CANTON, IF THEY FIND OUT ROBIN IS IMPERSONATING YOUR SON...

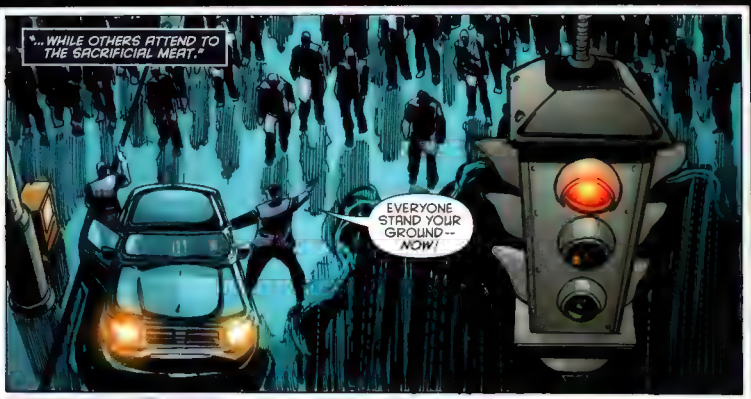

...WELL, IT'S BETTER IF WE WAIT WITH YOU UNTIL BATMAN CONTACTS US...

"...AND TELLS US EVERYTHING IS OKAY."
THIS IS ODD.
YOU SEE BEYOND YOURSELF.
BEYOND THE FACADE OF THE MUNDANE.
TO ACCEPT YOUR SERVICE TO A HIGHER ORDER.
NO-- DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!
PLEASE HELP US!
NO
DON'T
HELP
US!
AAAAAH!

OH MY GOD--OH GOD I'M BLEEDING--
DRIP DRIP DRIP
DRIP DRIP DRIP
TAKE THE CHILD.
NO.
NO!
DAMNABLE MEAT!

PURSUE HIM!
THE MEAT MUST BE BROUGHT BACK BEFORE HE CAN ALERT OTHERS TO OUR LOCATION.
THE REAL CANTON CHILD MUST ALSO BE ACQUIRED. WTHOUT HIM, THE EIGHTH SINNER CANNOT BE RESURRECTED!
BOY.

SOON TO BE A MAN.
PERHAPS...
...VERY... SOON...
NO-- HALLUCI-NATION--
OR A DREAM COME TRUE?
YOU ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR THE RITUAL... BUT YOU MAY PLEASE MYSTES IN OTHER WAYS. COME TO ME... OCCUPY MY TIME...


"...WHILE OTHERS ATTEND TO THE SACRIFICIAL MEAT."
EVERYONE STAND YOUR GROUND-- NOW!

THIS AIN'T GOOD.

SHOULD WE FIRE?
NO-- THIS ISN'T THEIR FAULT, RIGHT?

JOSIE, WE GOTTA CALL FOR MORE UNITS.
A LOT MORE!

ALL AVAILABLE UNITS TO 777 HAMILTON WAY. RIOT IN PROGRESS.
THE CANTONS' ADDRESS.
WHAT ABOUT ROBIN?
NO CHOICE.
SKREEE
NO-- THIS ISN'T--I DON'T--WON'T-- FEEL THAT WAY-- YET--
WE ALL FEEL THAT WAY, CHILD, FROM THE WARMTH OF THE WOMB TO THE COLD GRIP OF DEATH...

...AND WE ARE TAUGHT TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT THAT...
...I CAN LIBERATE YOU FROM THAT GUILT, CHILD...
...I CAN--
URK
ROBIN...
CAN YOU GET UP?
AZ-AZRAEL--I--YES--I CAN--

LET'S GO THEN. WE HAVE WORK TO DO.
WAIT-- I NEED TO...
WHAT'S THAT?
MILD STIMULANT TO COUNTERACT THE PSYCHOTROPIC EFFECTS FROM THEIR REPEATED ASSAULTS.
GOOD...
...LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL NEED A CLEAR HEAD.

CONSUME.
HE'S INSTIGATING, BUT HOW?
AND HOW DO WE GET PAST THIS CROWD?
I'LL HANDLE THAT. YOU PROTECT THE CANTONS.
THEY'RE ON THE PENTHOUSE. HOW DO YOU PROPOSE I--
TRAJECTORY LOCKED. EJECTION SEQUENCE INITIATED.
NO--
SON OF AAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
CHUTE DEPLOYMENT SUCCESSFUL.
RIOT DISPERSAL: SOFT APPROACH.

PWOOF
PWOOF
PWOOF
PWOOF
PWOOF
PWOOF
PWOOF
SLEEP? NO SLEEP. BUZZ CONSUME. NOW!
NOT LIKELY.
SWARM.
ZZZZZZZZZZZZ

YOU CONTROL A PERSON BY HAVING THEM *SWALLOW* YOUR FLIES?
CONGRATULATIONS. THAT RANKS IN THE TOP FIVE *SICKEST* THINGS I'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH. WHICH IS SAYING A LOT...
LET'S SEE
IF YOU'RE AS GOOD
IN A FIGHT.
GUESS NOT.
HOPE THE *QUESTION* IS HAVING JUST AS EASY A TIME OF IT...

THEY GOT THE KID.
WHILE THE ATTACK WAS GOIN' ON OUTSIDE--

--ALL OF A SUDDEN, MY PARTNER STARTS YELLIN' AT ME-- CANTON STARTS ARGUIN' WITH HIS WIFE--
--STUPID STUFF, THEN CANTON SLAMS HER INTO A TABLE, JOSIE DRAWS HER GUN ON ME--

--CLIPPED MY ARM.
IS SHE--?
DEAD? NO. I PUNCHED HER LIGHTS OUT. BUT...

...THE WIFE DIDN'T GET SO LUCKY...
MR. CANTON-- THIS ISN'T YOUR FAULT--THESE... CULTISTS...THEY HAVE DIFFERENT POWERS...

...I'M SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED...
SHE STARTED YELLING AT ME...ABOUT AN AFFAIR I'D HAD... FIFTEEN YEARS AGO...
...I THOUGHT WE WERE PAST THAT... THEN...

SHE TOOK JACK-- BUT I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF--I COULDN'T STOP HER...
WE KNOW WHERE THEY TOOK HIM. DETECTIVE, WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?
YEAH. BE CAREFUL OUT THERE, RENEE.
YOU KNOW?
WE SPENT YEARS TOGETHER. JUST 'CAUSE YOU PLAYED FOR THE OTHER TEAM...
...YOU THINK I WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE THAT CABOOSE OF YOURS?
ALWAYS THE CLASS ACT, HARVEY.
TAKE CARE OF JOSIE MAC.
AND YOURSELF.
LOOKS LIKE ENVY PAID A VISIT. SHE HAS JACKSON CANTON.
MEANS ROBIN WAS FOUND OUT.
IT'LL BE OKAY.
YEAH, YOU DON'T KNOW THIS ROBIN...

"...IT'S NOT *HIM* I'M WORRIED ABOUT."
YOU KNOW HOW TO ADVANCE FROM A *MUAY THAI* DEFENSE?
I'M VERSED IN MARTIAL PROTOCOL ACROSS THOUSANDS OF YEARS.
OF COURSE YOU ARE. YOU GOT WEAPONS OF MASS DISTRACTION IN THAT BELT?
OF COURSE I DO.
THEN USE THEM AND FOLLOW ME.
YOU PROPOSE *FLEEING*?
NO. I DON'T CARE ABOUT THEM RIGHT NOW.
OH.
THE CHILDREN.

YOU KNOW WHICH WAY?
THIRTY-SEVEN PACES THEN MAKE A LEFT FOR SIXTEEN PACES THEN--
YOU COUNTED STEPS?
I HAD NO OTHER OPTION.
I WAS BLINDFOLDED GOING DOWN AND DRUGGED COMING BACK.
YOU'RE A SCARY KID.
..IGHT UP AHEAD.
HELP US!
PLEASE, BEFORE THEY COME BACK!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO HELP?
IN A SECOND.

THE EIGHTH SINNER.
THEY WILL BE HERE MOMENTARILY.
I KNOW.
SO THE CHILDREN WERE NOT YOUR MOTIVE?
I'M DOING THIS FOR THEM...
ENOUGH!
WE WILL NOT ALLOW FOR INSIGNIFICANT APOSTATES OF THE CHURCH TO STOP US.
TANIMIN COMES WITH THE SEVENTH HEIR. AFTER TWO THOUSAND YEARS...

"...A NEW DAY WILL DAWN FOR HUMAN CIVILIZATION."
THERE SHE IS.
THIS IS NEW EVEN BY GOTHAM'S STANDARDS. TOUGH TO NAIL HER WITHOUT HITTING THE KID.
OPEN THE COCKPIT FOR ME.
I GOT IT.
THE POLICE WILL BE HERE IN A MINUTE.
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!
I'LL GO. STAY HERE UNTIL THE COPS COME.
DEFINITELY NOT YOUR FATHER'S BATMAN.

YOUR GOD IS FALSE! YOUR GOD DENIES FREEDOM!
SHUT UP.
WE HAVE TO TAKE THE BATTLE ABOVE GROUND.
NO--NOT WITHOUT THE EIGHTH SINNER'S BOD--
HE IS NOT YOURS TO EMBRACE OR DEFILE, SOLDIER OF A FAILED GOD.

AAH!
NO! YOU CAN'T DESPOIL OUR SAVIOR!
WE PLANNED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS--TO FREE MANKIND OF ITS MORAL STAGNATIONS AND--
NNGFF
NOT THAT I DISAGREE WITH THE SENTIMENT...
...BUT THE METHOD NEEDS SOME RETHINKING.

YOU HAVE EARNED A *LIFETIME* OF ENMITY THIS DAY, SOLDIER OF GOD.
THIS WILL NOT STOP US. WE ARE A PART OF YOU--WE WILL ALWAYS RETURN--
--AND WHEN WE DO, WE WILL NEED A *NEW HOST* TO CONTAIN THE EIGHTH SIN OF MAN...
...AND THAT HOST WILL BE *YOU!*
YOU IGNORED THE CHILDREN TO ATTACK A DEAD MAN.
YOU SEVERED SOMEONE'S *HAND*...
...I *WARNED* YOU TO DO THINGS THE *RIGHT* WAY, AZRAEL.
I RESPECT YOU, BATMAN, BUT I WON'T BE *JUDGED* BY YOU.

THAT'S RESERVED FOR A *HIGHER* POWER...
REMIND ME NOT TO BE ANYWHERE NEAR THE PEARLY GATES WHEN *THAT* GOES DOWN.
SO... NOT A GREAT NIGHT.
NO.
THE CHILDREN WERE SAVED, MEMBERS OF *LA SALIGIA* APPREHENDED--
--BUT ALYSSA CANTON LOST HER LIFE. WE HAVE TO DO BETTER...
...*I* HAVE TO DO BETTER.
GOTHAM IS LUCKY TO HAVE YOU.
*UHM*... THE MANLY PAT ON THE BACK IS OKAY WITH YOU, RIGHT? BEING A WIMPY BATMAN AND ALL?
YEAH... IT'S FINE.
YOU... HAVE NO IDEA HOW GLAD I AM THAT I MOVED.
END

AS I WAS GOING TO POISON IVES

I MET A WOMAN WITH NINE LIVES

THAT WOMAN CARRIED SEVEN SACKS

EVERY SACK HAD SEVEN CATS

EVERY CAT HAD SEVEN KITTENS

KITTENS, CATS, SACKS, LIVES...

HOW MANY WERE GOING TO POISON IVES?
30!
SILLY GOOSE, THE ANSWER IS 1.
NOW RIDDLE ME THIS...
ARKHAM
SHUT UP!!!
A LIL' GOTHAM TALE!
QUESTION & ANSWER
WRITTEN BY DEREK FRIDOLFS & DUSTIN NGUYEN
ART DUSTIN NGUYEN
INKS JOHN J. HILL
EDITED BY JANELLE SIEGEL
GOTHAM CITY EDITOR MIKE MARTS
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF, MISS GORDON.
THEY CALL ME LOOKER. I'M HERE TO HELP.
...Yeah, uh. The Stygian was still out there--that the "Blood Bank" thefts were more than the GCPD suspected--so I called in Looker.
As a former Outsider, who also happens to be a vampire, she was the logical choice.
I just didn't expect to find her in my apartment.
THE STYGIAN PAID YOU A VISIT WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING.
OH MY GOD...
I'm honestly disturbed, so at least my reaction is authentic.
EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY, GO CALL THE POLICE...
WRITTEN BY MANDY MCMURRAY
ART BY KELLEY JONES
COLORS BY MICHELLE MADSEN
LETTERS BY JOHN J. HILL
ASSISTANT EDITOR HARVEY RICHARDS
EDITOR MICHAEL SIGLAIN
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE
DARKER THAN BLACK
PART 2
ΤΟ ΧΕΙΡΟΤΕΡΟ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΚΟΥ
ΤΟ ΤΕΡΑΣ ΠΟΥ ΜΟΙΑΖΕΙ ΟΛ
...I'LL JUST BE A MINUTE.

A RIM.
PERHAPS THREAT IS A BETTER WORD.

ORACLE, THIS IS LOOKER. THE STYGIAN PRID BARBARA GORDON A VISIT DURING THE NIGHT. SHE SLEPT RIGHT THROUGH IT.
YEAH, I JUST INTERCEPTED HER 9-1-1 CALL.

THIS IS MY TERRITORY...
...AND THAT IS MY BARBARA.
LET'S SEE IF I CAN KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.

THERE'S ANOTHER MESSAGE BENEATH THE INKBLOT. THE PHOTO SHOULD BE ON ITS WAY.
BY THE WAY... I THINK HE WAS HERE, WATCHING ME. I'M GOING TO DO A SWEEP OF THE ROOF-TOPS.
BE CAREFUL. WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM YET.

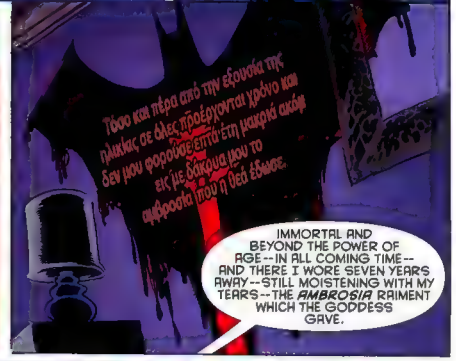
I never made the call to the GCPD, so I don't have to worry about them coming here to question me, but I do have to worry about the Stygian coming back to finish what he started.
There's only one place for me to go.

LATER...
LOOKER, THE DNA FROM THE BLOOD BANK CRIME SCENE DOESN'T MATCH CHRISTOPHER ABRAMS.
OF COURSE NOT. THAT WOULD BE TOO EASY. SO HOW, EXACTLY, DOES CHRISTOPHER TIE INTO ALL THIS?
HE'S EITHER AN ACCOMPLICE, OR JUST PLAIN NUTS.
BUT WHAT ARE THE ODDS THAT THERE ARE TWO GUYS WITH PORPHYRIA WHO HAVE THE SAME DELUSION?
AND MY ANGLE?
IT'S NOT UNHEARD OF FOR PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM PORPHYRIA TO HAVE BLOOD CRAVINGS AND MENTAL ILLNESS. THE COMBINATION OF THE TWO IS BOUND TO TUG THEM TOWARD CERTAIN LIFESTYLES.
I DON'T BELIEVE IN COINCIDENCES. THE REAL QUESTION IS: DID THE STYGIAN USE CHRISTOPHER AS A FALL GUY BECAUSE OF HIS PORPHYRIA AND CONNECTION TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT...
...OR DID CHRISTOPHER THROW HIMSELF ON THE PYRE AFTER THE FACT?
YOU MEAN LIKE "VAMPIRIC CULTS"?
THEY'D MAKE PERFECT PAWNS FOR THE STYGIAN.
THAT'S A SCARY THOUGHT, ORACLE.
SO WHY THE OBSESSION WITH BARBARA GORDON?
THAT'S THE PART I CAN'T FIGURE OUT. IT DOESN'T FIT.
DID YOU GET ANYTHING FROM THE BLOOD ON MISS GORDON'S WALL?
I'M SENDING YOU THE DONOR'S ADDRESS RIGHT NOW. NAME'S COURTNEY APHERESIS-WOODS. LOOKS LIKE SHE'S OUT OF THE COUNTRY AT THE MOMENT.
GOOD. I'M ON MY WAY.

ORACLE. I'M IN.
NEAT TRICK.

WE'RE TOO LATE.
HE'S ALREADY BEEN HERE. THERE'S ANOTHER PIECE OF ART.

READ IT TO ME.


Τόσο και πέρα από την εξουσία της
γήινης σε όλες προέρχονται χρόνο και
δεν μου φορούσε επτά έτη μακριά ακόμη
εις με δίκαια μου το
αμβροσία που η θεά έδωσε.
IMMORTAL AND BEYOND THE POWER OF AGE--IN ALL COMING TIME--AND THERE I WORE SEVEN YEARS AWAY--STILL MOISTENING WITH MY TEARS--THE *AMBROSIA* RAIMENT WHICH THE GODDESS GAVE.

DISPATCH JUST SENT THREE UNITS YOUR WAY. AN ANONYMOUS CALLER REPORTED A PROWLER AT YOUR ADDRESS.
GET OUT OF THERE.
WAIT--I'M GETTING A VISION--

STALKER
STYGIAN
AMBROSIA

THE CALLER HAD A VOICE DISGUISER. IT HAD TO BE HIM.

HE MUST HAVE SEEN YOU AT BARBARA GORDON'S APARTMENT AND IS TRYING TO THROW SUSPICION OFF HIMSELF.

LOOKER?

LOOKER?!?

WHAT'S WRONG?

I--I'M OKAY... HE WAS INTENSELY FOCUSED ON SPECIFIC WORDS. IN THE FIRST QUOTE, IT'S THE WORD **STYGIAN**. IN THE SECOND, IT'S **STALKER**. AND IN THIS LAST ONE, **AMBROSIA**.

"STYGIAN STALKER'S AMBROSIA." DAMMIT. IT'S A CLUE.

A STYGIAN STALKER IS A BAT, AND A BAT'S AMBROSIA--

--IS **BLOOD**.

AND THE GREEK WORD FOR BLOOD IS "HAIMA." THAT'S THE NAME OF ONE OF THE OTHER DONORS.
IT ALL ADDS UP. THE STYGIAN HAS CREATED A DELUSIONAL FANTASY SURROUNDING THE MYTHOS OF BLOOD AND DEATH, AND TONIGHT HE AIMS TO MAKE HIS FIRST KILL.
YEAH, WELL, I CAN TEACH HIM A FEW THINGS ABOUT THAT. DO WE KNOW WHERE THIS HAIMA IS?

"Yes... I just hope we're not too late."
THE INEVITABILITY OF THIS MOMENT SEEMED TO TAINT ME ALL MY LIFE.
MY GOD...

HAIMA. HIS VERY NAME BEGGED FOR MY ATTENTION.
LIKE HE WAS BORN JUST FOR MY ATTENTION.

I WASN'T EXPECTING HER, HOWEVER.
SHE IS QUICKLY BECOMING AN ANNOYANCE.
GOOD EVENING.

MR. HAIMA-- GET OUT! NOW!
KRAKK

NOW THINGS ARE GETTING INTERESTING.

HER BLOOD WILL BE AN UNEXPECTED TREAT.

YOUR BLOOD WAS *NOT* SUPPOSED TO BE SPILLED *FIRST*...

...BUT I WILL HAPPILY MAKE AN *EXCEPTION*.

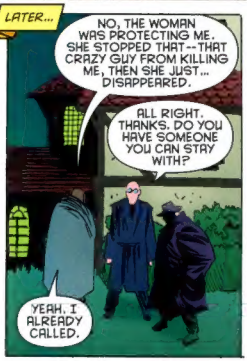
YOU WANT TO BE LIKE ME, BUT YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT'S *REALLY* LIKE TO CRAVE BLOOD!

MR. HRIMA-- RUN!
NOW!!!

NO--HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE MY FIRST!

SLICH
UNGH!
YOU ARE ONLY DELAYING THE INEVITABLE.
YOU CANNOT STOP ME!

DAMN.
HER BLOOD WOULD HAVE MADE A BEAUTIFUL WORK OF ART.
AND ONE DAY SOON... IT WILL.


LATER...
NO, THE WOMAN WAS PROTECTING ME. SHE STOPPED THAT--THAT CRAZY GUY FROM KILLING ME, THEN SHE JUST... DISAPPEARED.
ALL RIGHT. THANKS. DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE YOU CAN STAY WITH?
YEAH. I ALREADY CALLED.

WELL, COMMISSIONER, IT LOOKS LIKE ABRAMS WAS JUST A RED HERRING.
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THAT WOMAN, WE'RE BACK TO SQUARE ONE...
YEAH, I JUST GOT A PHONE CALL. SHE'S AN INFORMANT OF SORTS.

"But this Stygian is still out there..."
I'M STILL WORRIED ABOUT MISS GORDON. HE'S FIXATED ON HER FOR SOME REASON, ALMOST LIKE HE WANTS TO IMPRESS HER.
WHAT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT IS WHY. STALKERS CAN BE SEEMINGLY RANDOM, BUT I GET THE FEELING THAT HE KNOWS HER SOMEHOW.

THEN BARBARA GORDON HAD BETTER BE CAREFUL...
"...because he's only going to get more dangerous."
IT HAS BEGUN...
THE END?

# HOW BIG IS BLACKEST NIGHT?

So big that its power to make the dead rise has now moved from expired characters to old cancelled series.

That's right: this January, the BLACKEST NIGHT miniseries skips a month to make room for a very special Blackest Night event. Eight classic titles from DC's past will return from the dead for one month only to celebrate this mega-crossover throughout the DC Universe. Each series will pick up from its original numbering and feature characters from their original runs as they deal with the events currently unfolding in the DC Universe. And I have to say, this has been one of the more fun projects we've put together.

We scoured the list of series from the '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s and today to find the right titles to bring back from the dead. They are, in no particular order, as follows:

- **POWER OF SHAZAM #48. Eric Wallace** tells the tale in which Osiris returns from the dead to "chew the fat" with a very powerless Billy and Mary Batson.
- **CATWOMAN #83. Fabian Nicieza** has the original Black Mask explaining to Selina why shooting him in the head was a bad idea.
- **SUICIDE SQUAD #67. John Ostrander** is bringing Deadshot's past back to haunt him. That means Suicide Squad!
- **QUESTION #37. Greg Rucka** has the one answer for when two Questions meet.
- **PHANTOM STRANGER #42. Peter Tomasi** reveals what Blackest Night means to the Phantom Stranger.
- **WEIRD WESTERN TALES #71. Dan DiDio** (weirdly talking about himself in the third person) lets you know what all the dead Old West characters are doing in the New West today.
- **ATOM AND HAWKMAN #46. Geoff Johns** brings you the double date from Hell, The Black Lantern Hawks work to reunite Atom with his long dead love, Jean Loring.
- **STARMAN #81. James Robinson** returns to the book he made great and visits some old haunts.

So there you have it! Eight great issues to show the amazing reach of this amazing story. And in case you are wondering why we skipped a month of BLACKEST NIGHT, well, that's just to give the immensely talented and immensely overworked **Ivan Reis** a chance to prepare the oversized final issue of this series out this March.

How's that for fun?

To be continued...

**DD**

# DC NATION

TEXT **DC NATION** TO **62407** TO GET THE LATEST DC UNIVERSE NEWS, ALERTS AND SPECIAL OFFERS! Standard carrier rates may apply.

*DC COMICS* DAN DIDIO, Senior VP-Executive Editor PAUL LEVITZ, President & Publisher GEORG BREWER, VP-Design & DC Direct Creative RICHARD BRUNING, Senior VP-Creative Director PATRICK CALDON, Executive VP-Finance & Operations CHRIS CARAMALIS, VP-Finance JOHN CUNNINGHAM, VP-Marketing TERRI CUNNINGHAM, VP-Managing Editor MARILYN DRUCKER, VP-Brand Management AMY GENKINS, Senior VP-Business & Legal Affairs ALISON GILL, VP-Manufacturing DAVID HYDE, VP-Publicity HANK KANALZ, VP-General Manager, WildStorm JAY KOGAN, VP-Business & Legal Affairs/Deputy General Counsel JIM LEE, Editorial Director-WildStorm GREGORY NOVECK, Senior VP - Creative Affairs RICH PALERMO, VP-Business & Legal Affairs/Deputy General Counsel RON PERAZZA, VP-Creative Services SUE POHJA, VP - Book Trade Sales STEVE ROTTERDAM, Senior VP-Sales & Marketing CHERYL RUBIN, Senior VP-Brand Management ALYSSE SOLL, VP-Advertising & Custom Publishing, JEFF TROJAN, VP-Business Development, DC Direct BOB WAYNE, VP-Sales

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE Certified Fiber Sourcing Fiber used in this product line meets the sourcing requirements of the SFI program. www.sfiprogram.org PWC-SFICOC-260

DETECTIVE COMICS ANNUAL 11. December, 2009. Published by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. GST # is R125921072. Copyright © 2009 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork. This book is manufactured at a facility holding chain-of-custody certification. This paper is made with sustainably managed North American fibre.
Printed by World Color Press, Inc., Montreal, QC, Canada. 10/07/09.

DC Comics, a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company

A GREEN GIANT SCAN

LIKE IT?
BUY IT!